

ATTACHMENT 3

Natural Heritage Recommendations Matrix						
Topic	Recommendation	Actions/Details	Priority	Time Frame	Resources	Next Steps (if report approved as presented)
Natural Heritage Planning Standards	Exceed minimum requirements for natural heritage planning and set natural cover target either at Maintain Natural Cover or Net Gain.	Adopt a Net Gain goal through orientation of current Refine further through the Natural Heritage System project	1, 2, 3	Short/Medium	Internal & External	<p>Short term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop net gain policy goals and objectives • Apply net gain approach in the review of current applications in combination with offsetting policies • Apply current policy framework through a net gain lens <p>TBD Pending staff availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare terms of reference for natural heritage system project with recommended scope. • Advance a future budget request
Natural Heritage System	Identify a Town Natural Heritage System building on the base established by the County's NHS.	Map the Natural Heritage System based on Town's defined system. Map County natural heritage system as an overlay	1, 2, 3	Short/Medium	Internal & External	<p>Short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm County NHS as the existing base applicable NHS <p>TBD Pending staff availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare terms of reference for natural heritage system project with recommended scope. • Advance a future budget request

Additional Engagement	Conduct engagement through next stages of work to ensure representation from all major stakeholders in natural heritage planning (agricultural community, residents, development community, recreational businesses, etc.)	Advance public engagement appropriate to related activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Heritage System • Official Plan Update (alignment with PPS, existing strategic content) • Official Plan Update (new and revised content in accordance with new Natural Heritage Planning Standards and Natural Heritage System) • Zoning By-law Updates • Guidelines 	1, 2, 3	Short, Medium, Long	Internal & External	Include ongoing public engagement component within the various initiatives.
Official Plan policies	1. Update the Town's Official Plan (current Official Plan Update). These recommendations support conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and alignment of natural heritage policies with the Town's existing natural heritage strategic objectives	1. Advance Official Plan policy updates as part of current Official Plan Update project to align with PPS 2020, County plan and align policies with the Town's existing natural heritage and environmental strategic objectives.	1, 2, 3	Short	Internal & External	Short term Prepare amendments and include as part of the release of Official Plan update content.

	<p>2. Update the Town's Official Plan (separate exercise and following adoption of Natural Heritage System) Revise existing, or develop new policies to support the strategic objectives and chosen target for the natural heritage system in accordance with recommendations.</p>	<p>2. Develop and advance Official Plan policies following adoption of the natural heritage system, the cover target, its size and features.</p>	1, 2, 3	Medium	Internal & External	<p>TBD Following completion of natural heritage system, advance related Official Plan updates.</p>
By-laws	<p>Update Zoning By-law Consider including other components of the natural heritage system within settlement areas, including Key Features, linkages, buffers and enhancement areas, within an "Environmental Zone" that applies appropriate restrictions that achieve the objectives and policies of the Town's new OP.</p>	<p>Advance related Zoning provisions following respective OP updates.</p>	3	Medium/Long	Internal & External	<p>TBD Following approval of the Short Term or TBD Official Plan updates incorporate into any Comprehensive or Limited Zoning By-law Update exercise related zoning provisions.</p>
Tree Preservation By-law	<p>Complete review and update of the tree preservation by-law with regard to specific project recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the goals, objectives and policies related to the target for woodlands. the by-law may consider including a prohibition from selective tree removal that results in the reduction in stem density below that which defines a woodland under the Forestry Act. 	1,2	TBD	Internal & External	<p>TBD Advance interim tree preservation by-law revisions that implement related recommendations that are not dependent on further natural heritage system work. Complete further amendments on conclusion of natural heritage system.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the update to the tree preservation by-law may include requirements for tree compensation and woodland restoration, whether the tree removal was permitted as per the by-law or approved under a Planning Act application, or a requirement as part of an unauthorized removal of trees. penalties for infractions should be increased to ensure deterrence and support municipal tree planting and woodland enhancement efforts. prepare a supplementary guidance document for the preparation of a Tree Inventory and Preservation Plan (see section below). 				
Tree Inventory and Protection Plan Guidelines	Develop guidance document for preparation of a Tree Inventory and Protection Plan		1,2	Short	Internal & External	Short Term Complete literature review, adopt best practices into Town guidelines as terms of reference for required studies.
Environmental Impact Study Guidelines	Develop guideline document for preparation of an EIS		1,2	Short	Internal & External	Short Term Work with County and/or adopt best practices into Town guidelines as terms of reference for required studies.
Environmental Impact Study Guidelines	Develop tools as part of EIS guideline: EIS Project Screening Tool EIS Scoping Assessment Tool EIS Terms of Reference Checklist Tool EIS Comment and Response Tool		1,2		Internal & External	Short Term Work with County and/or adopt best practices into Town guidelines as terms of reference for required studies.

	EIS Final Submission Checklist Tool					
Ecological Offsetting Guidelines	Develop or adopt Ecological Offsetting Guidelines		1,2, 3	Short/Medium	Internal & External	<p>Short Term Work with the County and/or adopt policy and best practices into Town guidelines as terms of reference for required studies.</p> <p>TBD Consider two stage approach with any components dependent on NHS</p>
Greening Strategy	<p>Develop a Greening strategy that will identify programs and that support the vision and goals for the natural environment and provide a set of actions that can be implemented to support the goal for the natural environment, such as tree planting programs, schoolground naturalization and pollinator garden programs, and planting of riparian vegetated buffer strips with the support of the agricultural community.</p> <p>Achieving the goals of a Greening Strategy depends on collaboration between the municipality and all stakeholders such as the development community, environmental groups, and the agricultural community.</p>		2,3	Long Term	Internal & External	TBD
Other	(Not a recommendation of the NAI-NH Study)	Seek opportunities as available Maintain connection between NAI and NH project goals and objectives	1,2,3	1	Internal & External	Ongoing

	Coordinate the work of the NAI with the NH study recommendations to integrate public and private projects where appropriate.					
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Action Plan Criteria

Priority

- 1) Completion of Item forms a dependency on which other actions are based, failure to act increases opportunity cost, resources are available now
- 2) Action supports goals Resources not currently available/assigned or available on an ad hoc basis i.e. depending on staff availability
- 3) Action supports goals, is dependent on preceding actions, resources not currently available/assigned

Time frame

Short term (6 months to 1 yr)

Medium (1-3 yrs)

Long term (3+ years)

Resources: All projects are resource dependent

TBD: To be determined